

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A personal video recorder having a user-controlled data capture function, the recorder comprising:

an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;

a data storage unit; and

a processor that receives input from a user input device;

wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer, wherein said first predetermined amount is less than all of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command.

2. (original) The recorder of claim 1, wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

3. (original) The recorder of claim 2, wherein said processor generates an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

4. (original) The recorder of claim 1, wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

5. (original) The recorder of claim 1, wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.

6. (original) The recorder of claim 5, wherein said user input device comprises a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder.

7. (original) The recorder of claim 6, wherein said processor records an indication with each segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

8. (original) The recorder of claim 1, wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by user input through said user input device.

9. (original) The recorder of claim 1, wherein said second predetermined amount is determined by a length of time during which a user actuates a button on said user input device for issuing said user command.

10. (original) The recorder of claim 1, further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

11. (previously presented) A method of capturing data with a personal video recorder having a user-controlled data capture function, the recorder comprising:

an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder; and

a data storage unit;

said method comprising, upon receipt of a user command, recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer, wherein said first predetermined amount is less than all of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising associating an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising generating an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said user input device comprises a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder, said method further comprising recording an indication with each segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

15. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising setting said first and second predetermined amounts by user input through a user input device of said recorder.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising determining said second predetermined amount as a length of time during which a user actuates a button on a user input device of said recorder for issuing said user command.

17. (previously presented) A personal video recorder having a user-controlled data capture function, the recorder comprising:

input means for receiving an audiovisual signal and output means for outputting said audiovisual signal;

a buffer means for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer means retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;

a data storage means; and

a processor means that receives input from a user input means;

wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input means, said processor means records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage means, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer means, wherein said first predetermined amount is less than all of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command.

18. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 17, further comprising:

means for associating an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage means; and

means for indexing segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage means using said identifying label of each said segment.

19. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 17, wherein said user input means comprise at least one remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiving means for receiving input from said remote control unit.

20. (original) The recorder of claim 19, wherein said user input means comprise a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder, wherein said processor means records an indication with each segment of said

audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage means as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

21. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 17, further comprising means for setting said first and second predetermined amounts.

22. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 17, further comprising means for transmitting said segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage means from said recorder.

23. (previously presented) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command;
wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by user input through said user input device.

24. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

25. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 24, wherein said processor generates an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

26. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

27. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.

28. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said second predetermined amount is determined by a length of time during which a user actuates a button on said user input device for issuing said user command.

29. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

30. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;

a data storage unit; and

a processor that receives input from a user input device;

wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished.

31. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said processor generates an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

32. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said identifying label comprises a date stamp.

33. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said identifying label comprises an amount of time elapsed into a program being carried by said audiovisual signal.

34. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said identifying label comprises a name of a program carried by said audiovisual signal, said name being taken from an electronic programming guide.

35. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said identifying label is input by a user using said user input device.

36. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

37. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.

38. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 37, wherein said user input device comprises a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder.

39. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 38, wherein said processor records an indication with each segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

40. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by user input through said user input device.

41. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 30, further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

42. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command;
wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit, wherein said remote

control unit further comprises a dedicated button for issuing said user command to record a segment of said audiovisual signal.

43. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 42, wherein said user input device comprises a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder.

44. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 43, wherein said processor records an indication with each segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

45. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 43, wherein said plurality of remote control units comprise a main remote control unit and one or more secondary remote control units, wherein a secondary remote control unit has less control over said recorder than said main remote control unit.

46. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 45, wherein a secondary remote control unit can only issue said user command to record a segment of said audiovisual signal.

47. (cancelled)

48. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 42, wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

49. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 42, wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by user input through said user input device.

50. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 42, further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

51. (previously presented) A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal in a buffer after that portion has been output by said recorder;

receiving a user command input through a user input device; and,

in response to said user command, recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and

receiving user input through said user input device that specifies said first and second predetermined amounts.

52. (currently amended) A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal in a buffer after that portion has been output by said recorder;

receiving a user command input through a user input device; and,

in response to said user command, recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and

associating an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished.

53. (currently amended) A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal in a buffer after that portion has been output by said recorder;

receiving a user command input through a user input device; and,

in response to said user command, recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and

issuing said user command with a remote control unit, said recorder comprising a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit, wherein said remote control unit further comprises a dedicated button for issuing said user command to record a segment of said audiovisual signal.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

receiving user commands to record segments of said audiovisual signal from a plurality of remote control units; and

recording an identifier with each recorded segment identifying which remote control unit order recording of that recorded segment.

55. (previously presented) A personal video recorder that processes an audiovisual signal comprising:

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;

means for receiving a user command; and,

in response to said user command, means for recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and means for receiving user input through said user input device to control a length of said first and second predetermined amounts.

56. (currently amended) A personal video recorder that processes an audiovisual signal comprising:

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;

means for receiving a user command; and

in response to said user command, means for recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:

a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and

a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and

means for associating an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished.

57. (previously presented) A method of operating a personal video recorder that processes an audiovisual signal and selectively records said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit, said method comprising:

retrieving an audiovisual program stored on said data storage unit in said recorder; outputting said audiovisual program;

receiving a user command through a user input device; and,

in response to said user command, storing a separate recording of a segment of said audiovisual program in said data storage unit, said segment comprising a first predetermined amount of said audiovisual program output prior to receipt of said user command and a second predetermined amount of said audiovisual program output after receipt of said user command.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by a user with said user input device.

59. (cancelled).